

Public Document Pack
Notice of a Meeting

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 14 February 2011 at 10.00 am
County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Carol Viney

<i>Councillors:</i>	John Goddard Patrick Greene Stewart Lilly	Lorraine Lindsay- Gale Sajjad Hussain Malik Susanna Pressel	Bill Service Alan Thompson
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Notes:

Date of next meeting: 9 May 2011

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Community safety; anti-social behaviour; crime and the fear of crime; fire and rescue; consumer protection; emergency planning; police issues; coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; drugs and alcohol awareness; road safety (police, trading standards, fire and rescue); adult learning (oversight of the adult learning service in provider mode); libraries; museums and heritage; the arts; archives; leisure and recreation; registration service; community cohesion; equalities and social inclusion; voluntary and community sector.
- The functions of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts and the Probation Service) which comprise a Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership/Community Safety Partnership.
- Those regulatory functions of the Planning & Regulation Committee not falling within the remit of the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee.

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	-	Councillor Lawrie Stratford E.Mail: lawrie.stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Sean Gibson Tel: (01865) 815482 Email: sean.gibson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark.

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

February 2011

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
- 2. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8 November 2010 (**SSC3a**) and 20 December 2010 (**SSC3b**) and any matters arising on them.

4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee

5. Director's Update 10.15

The Director for Community Safety & Shared Services, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards will give verbal updates on key issues.

SCRUTINY MATTERS

To consider matters where the Committee can provide a challenge to the work of the Authority

6. The Big Society and Locality Reviews 10.45

Contact Officer: Alexandra Bailey, Corporate Performance and Review Manager, 01865 816384

Fourteen locality reviews are to be undertaken which will aim to

- Understand the current profile of the locality (services, assets and current voluntary sector activity)
- Understand the overall impact of proposed service reductions on local communities
- Identify and encourage Big Society solutions
- Identify opportunities to rationalise property and services outlets

Community responses to the Big Society challenge will be able to bid for a pump-priming grant from the Big Society Fund. These will be considered in two steps:

- Expressions of interest (January to end of February)
- Applications (March to end of June)

The committee is invited to receive an update from the Corporate Performance and Review Manager.

7. Crime and Disorder Annual Review

11.30

Contact Officers: Richard Webb, Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards;

Ruth Whyte, Manager - Safer Communities Unit, 01865 815396

Every local authority must create or designate a crime and disorder committee. This committee may be new or an existing committee may take on this role. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee is currently constituted to take on this role for the County Council.

The purpose of a crime and disorder committee is to:

- a) review or scrutinise decisions made/actions taken by the “responsible authorities” in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions; and
- b) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

The responsible authorities in Oxfordshire are: Oxfordshire County Council, District Councils, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Police Authority, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and the Probation Service.

In relation to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) it will be natural for this Committee to scrutinise the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) rather than the individual CDRPs, which lend themselves more readily to scrutiny by the district council scrutiny committees.

Members are reminded that this committee in its role as a crime and disorder committee will need to look at how the different partners come together (how the OSCP is co-ordinating its work to deliver positive outcomes) and what outcomes they are achieving, rather than focusing on one partner.

Councillor Kieron Mallon, the Chairman of the OSCP, has been invited for this agenda item.

A briefing paper will be circulated separately.

The Committee is invited to consider how the different partners are working together to deliver positive outcomes.

8. Draft OFRS Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) 2011-12

(Pages 11 - 16)

11.45

Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206

At the November meeting Scrutiny Committee members commented on the individual projects and agreed that if possible following consultation, the plan be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to final consideration by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet will be asked to approve the attached Draft Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) 2011-12 on 16 February 2011 (**SSC8**).

The Committee is invited to comment on the final plan prior to Cabinet consideration.

9. Regional Control Room Project Cancellation

12.00

Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206

To brief committee on the benefits secured, the immediate implications and the development work on options for the future.

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

10. Scrutiny Work Programme

12.20

Contact Officer: Sean Gibson, Corporate Performance Adviser, 01865 815482

To consider current work plan and make amendments if necessary.

11. Forward Plan

12.35

The Committee is asked to note any items of interest on the current version of the Forward Plan which covers the time period March 2011 to June 2011.

INFORMATION SHARE

Localism Bill

The new Localism Bill (which was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010) is intended to provide new power and freedoms to councils and neighbourhoods. The Bill

is very wide-ranging, and amongst other things is likely to have implications for our Big Society proposals and planning / infrastructure funding strategies.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/>

12.45 approx Close of Meeting

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

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Agenda Item 3

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 8 November 2010 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 2.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lawrie Stratford – in the Chair
Councillor John Goddard
Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Sajjad Hussain Malik (Saj)
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Bill Service
Councillor Alan Thompson
Councillor Carol Viney (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Steve Hayward (in place of Councillor Stewart Lilly)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Judith Heathcoat

Officers:

Whole of meeting: Belinda Dimmock-Smith, Sue Whitehead (Chief Executives Office)

Part of meeting:

Agenda Item	Officer Attending
5	Chief Fire Officer
6	Jackie Wilderspin, Assistant Director of Public Health - NHS Oxfordshire, Ruth Whyte, Manager – Safer Communities Unit
7	Head of Partnership Working
8	Chief Fire Officer
9	Nigel Wilson, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer
10	Nigel Wilson, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer
11	County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer Richard Webb, Deputy head of Trading Standards

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

89/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Stewart Lilly (Councillor Steve Hayward substituting).

90/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

Minutes agreed.

Minute 85/10 - The Chairman agreed with the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities that given the development at the recent Council meeting it was probably better to defer this piece of work.

91/10 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(Agenda No. 5)

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the significant challenges as a result of the Government Spending Review announcement. In particular in relation to trading standards and safer communities he referred to changes in several specific grants; there would be in-year and future year cuts and inclusion in into general grants.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to discussions being held on possible joint working in relation to trading standards and undertook to bring detailed information to a future meeting.

Referring to encouraging figures on availability due to the effect of full time watch officers the Chief Fire Officer undertook to keep the Scrutiny Committee informed.

The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee of the sad news of a fire fatality in Banbury. Investigations as to cause was underway and the response to the incident provided a good example of a joined up response, involving the Oxfordshire Fire service, the London Brigade, Social and Community Services and the relevant Housing Association. They would be looking at any follow up work including publicity around smoke alarms. The Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities commended the bravery of the fire fighters.

The Chairman commended the joint working and there was some discussion of how this could be extended across the County. The Chief Fire Officer advised that a trial was to be held in West Oxfordshire with an evaluation before taking further. No timescales were available at this point.

There was some discussion about the changes to the National Consumer Helpline with the current position that negotiations were taking place to extend the current contract for 1 year from 31 March 2011 to allow alternative arrangements to be put in place.

92/10 DRAFT OXFORDSHIRE ALCOHOL STRATEGY 2011-2014

(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee considered the new draft Oxfordshire Alcohol Strategy 2011 – 2014 (**SSC6(a)**) which outlined the priorities in relation to alcohol for the next 3 years.

The Committee also had before them the Director of Public Health's Annual Report (Version 4 – May 2010) which reports on 2009-10 and includes recommendations for 2010-2011 and included a section on alcohol for the first time (**SSC6(b)**).

During discussion the following points were made:

1. The priority being given to alcohol abuse was welcomed.
2. Responding to a question from the Chairman it was clarified that the figures on alcohol consumption could not be broken down by age group.
3. Responding to concerns that there were no action plans in place the Committee was advised that work was ongoing on the existing Strategy and that a progress report could be circulated to members of the Committee.
4. The importance of community involvement was recognised. Different approaches would be needed to target specific groups, such as young people. A member highlighted the importance of targeting school children and the need to do more work with schools. There was some discussion over the use of posters and it was queried whether a harder message was needed.
5. A member suggested that there was a lack of emphasis on the 18-45 years age group. In some way alcohol needed to be socialised and civilised to encourage moderate drinking. It was noted that the Strategy did not refer to AA and it was suggested that there could be better links with hospitals.
6. With regard to health promotion GP's were doing a lot although there was possibly a lack of consistency across the County. A good screening tool existed and the position was likened to the smoking cessation campaigns of 10 years ago.
7. There was some discussion over the use of sentencing to address problems and it was noted that alcohol treatment orders already existed.
8. Reference was made to the figures on retesting of premises (page 47 of the report)in relation to under age sales of alcohol in Oxfordshire and the need for effective enforcement was highlighted.
9. A link was made between the increase in drinking and the decrease in the unit cost of alcohol. Councillor Goddard suggested that the unit cost should be increased.

It was agreed that Committee Members receive a copy of the progress reports on the current action plan. It was further agreed that all councillors receive a list of alcohol services in Oxfordshire.

93/10 SELF HELP COMMUNITIES - PROGRESS UPDATE

(Agenda No. 7)

In July this Committee conducted a select committee investigation into community pride/self help and put forward a number of recommendations as part of the officer paper to the County Council Management Team (CCMT), which was considered on

28 July. This paper was subsequently circulated to all members of the Committee for information. The Committee now considered a written progress update.

The Head of Partnership Working explained that there had been a delay in the production of the Framework as it was important that the right people were consulted but that it remained an important objective. He advised that there was a meeting that afternoon and the views of the Committee would be reported.

During discussion the following points were made:

1. The importance of joining up grants was highlighted. There was some discussion on the respective roles of the County and District Council and Paul James recognised the need to simplify grant processes.
2. With regard to community development it was important not to duplicate work being done elsewhere, such as by the OSCA.

The Chairman highlighted that there was consensus about the need for a combined approach. It was AGREED that Alison Baxter, OCVA and the Bishop Colin Fletcher be invited to attend a future meeting.

94/10 SUMMARY OF OFRS OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE PEER REVIEW INSPECTION REPORT AND OFRS RESPONSE

(Agenda No. 8)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the report (**SSC8**) that summarised the most significant findings of an operational peer assessment overseen by the Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA) and led by the Chief Fire Officer of Cornwall, Des Tidbury.

During discussion the following points were made:

1. The peer approach to inspection was welcomed.
2. The role of other partners in relation to the target to decrease serious injury road traffic collision numbers was recognised.
3. Some concern was expressed about the ongoing sustainability of the resilience of the retained duty system. The Chief Fire Officer replied that for a rural service resilience was vitally important and he outlined actions being taken to secure ongoing resilience.
4. The Chief Fire officer responding to comments on the need in a small service to ensure that people were recruited externally to bring in outside expertise gave an assurance that this was already happening. He added that there was a system of mentoring in place.
5. There was some discussion of the activity to reach motorcyclists with accident prevention information

The Chairman congratulated the Service on an excellent report commenting that the Committee's expectations were regularly exceeded.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and AGREED that the Chief Fire officer report progress on the action plan as appropriate.

95/10 OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE RESPONSE STANDARDS PERFORMANCE 2009/10

(Agenda No. 9)

The Scrutiny Committee considered a report (**SSC9**) that provided details of Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service's performance statistics for fire appliance response times to emergency incidents during 2009/10. The report provided details of that performance and the actions being undertaken to mitigate risk.

Responding to comments Nigel Wilson confirmed that the Service was consulted on the broader highway/planning implications at the planning stage for major developments. They were also advised about traffic changes. There was a balance between traffic safety considerations and the need for ease of access. Use was made of over the border appliances as needed and this was also true the other way. Improvements at Goring were due to a new Watch manager so that mobilisation was quicker.

There was recognition by the Chairman and Committee that snow could have an adverse impact on responses. The Chairman added that he was interested in the traffic related figures and found the information helpful.

The Committee noted the contents of the report

96/10 DRAFT OFRS INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (IRMP) 2011-12

(Agenda No. 10)

The Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities considered Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service's Draft Integrated Risk Management Action Plan for 2011-12 on 4 October 2010 and approve the proposed projects for consultation.

Scrutiny Committee members commented on the individual projects and noted that they would be contacted by email to agree a response to the consultation. They AGREED that if possible following consultation the plan be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to final consideration by Cabinet.

97/10 QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE USE OF THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 BY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(Agenda No. 11)

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report (**SSC11**) that provided an overview of the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by Oxfordshire County Council in the period from 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010. The report summarised applications for authorisation to undertake activities within the scope of

the Act made during this period. Where those activities have been concluded the report included the outcomes achieved.

Responding to comments Richard Webb explained the difficulties in achieving successful prosecutions and that it was better to work with premises and shops. He outlined how young volunteers were recruited and explained the limitations on the number of operations that could be mounted.

There was some discussion of the role of magistrates and the limitations of the legal process. It was confirmed that there was joint working with District Councils making use of local knowledge. Members queried whether there was duplication of effort as responsibility was shared.

The Scrutiny Committee AGREED that the next report include examples of partnership working between the County Council and District Councils.

98/10 REPORT RELATING TO DEBT ADVICE SCRUTINY REVIEW

(Agenda No. 12)

The Scrutiny Committee noted a paper detailing the Group’s findings

The Chairman in referring to the work undertaken advised that there was no intention that the review continue and it was AGREED that the Debt Advice Review was now concluded.

99/10 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 13)

The timeline for the Scrutiny Work Programme was noted.

100/10 FORWARD PLAN

(Agenda No. 14)

No items raised.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2011

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2010 commencing at 10.15 am and finishing at 12.15 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lawrie Stratford – in the Chair

Councillor John Goddard
Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Nick Carter (In place of Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale)
Councillor Peter Jones (In place of Councillor Carol Viney)
Councillor Melinda Tilley (In place of Councillor Bill Service)
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (In place of Councillor Alan Thompson)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Cabinet member for Safer & Stronger Communities

Officers:

Whole of meeting Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer, Director for Social & Community Services, Chief Fire Officer, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Richard Webb,(Trading Standards); Belinda Dimmock-Smith, Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes.

101/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

The following apologies and temporary appointments were received:

Apology	Temporary Appointment
Councillor Carol Viney	Councillor Peter Jones
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Councillor Nick Carter

Councillor Sajjad Hussain Malik	
Councillor Bill Service	Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillor Alan Thompson	Councillor Nicholas Turner

102/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

103/10 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed.

Item 5. Service & Resource Planning – Bryony Newport, Botley resident
Geron Swann, OFVM film oxford, Centre for Digital Media

The Committee also received a written representation from The Theatre Chipping Norton in support of maintaining their grant and highlighting the work of the organisation.

104/10 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report (SSC5) containing the Business Strategies and savings proposed for their service areas.

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward – locality and partnership working were seen as key to the future provision of services covered by this Committee’s remit.

Community Safety (Community Safety, Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Safer Communities)

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward. Discussion took place to reassure the future capability of the fire service. The potential of further and future partnership working arrangements were seen as critical in terms of Trading Standards and Safer Communities.

Social and Community Services (Library services, Museum services, Heritage and arts mgmt, History services, Victoria County History, Partnerships with arts orgs, The Mill and Cultural Development)

Briony Newport, a resident of Botley spoke against the proposal to close Botley Library. It would be difficult to get to other libraries by public transport and it was devastating news that it might close. She commented that the saving made was small in comparison to what was needed and the library served as a place of learning , community and solace. Local people valued the expert professional staff and the library was valued across all social groupings. Responding to a query from Councillor tilley as to whether the community could take it over Ms Newport replied that they did

not yet know the costings; the Parish Council was to meet in January but that local people liked the library as it was.

Geron Swann, OFVM film oxford, spoke in support of the publically funded charity outlining the work that they had done. This included training 554 people and being involved in 17 productions.

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward. There was much discussion regarding the future vision of a modernised library service – including a review of the mobile library services. A member raised concerns over the library proposals in terms of the continued free provision of internet services, rotation of books and loss of staff with professional library skills. A member suggested a working group review the longer term options for the Mill and Banbury Library and it was AGREED that this be picked up as part of the localities reviews.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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SSC8

Division(s): All

ITEM

CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES DELEGATED DECISIONS

16th February 2011

**INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) OXFORDSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY - DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2011-12**

Report by the Chief Fire Officer

Introduction

1. This report proposes a number of projects to be included within the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) for 2011-12. The proposals summarise areas where the Service's Senior Leadership Team believe service improvements may be achieved. To meet the requirements of the IRMP process, each proposal is supported by evidence, validating both their inclusion and their contribution to improved community engagement and community/fire-fighter safety. Similarly, each proposal recognises the prevailing economic constraints.
2. These proposals, if approved by the Cabinet, will be adopted in the final version of the IRMP Action Plan 2011-12. The projects will be monitored through established performance management systems, reviewed every quarter and reported to the Cabinet Member responsible for the Fire & Rescue Service.
3. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 received Royal Assent on 22 July 2004. Part 3, Chapter 21, of this legislation requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to which fire authorities must have regard when discharging their functions.
4. The Secretary of State initially published the latest Fire and Rescue Service National Framework in May 2008. The purpose of the framework was to provide strategic direction from central government whilst ensuring that authorities continue to make local decisions. The framework set out the government's objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service and what fire authorities should do to achieve these objectives. More recently, Ministers have stated that the 2008/11 National Framework remains in force, but the Minister responsible for Fire and Rescue Service matters indicated that there would be less central prescription. However, the

SSC8

Minister made clear that the use of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) will continue to determine the need for and allocation of local fire prevention, protection and response resource to allow local decisions to be made by practitioners and elected members on the basis of locally assessed risks and circumstances.

5. The 2008-11 Fire and Rescue Service National Framework requires each fire authority to produce a publicly available IRMP covering at least a 3-year time span which:
 - is regularly reviewed and revised and reflects up-to-date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes
 - has regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums including those reported in external Community Risk Registers (CRRs) and internal risk registers to ensure that civil and terrorist contingencies are captured in their IRMP
 - reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and stakeholders
 - demonstrates how prevention, protection and response activities will be best used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way
 - provides details of how fire authorities deliver their objectives and meet the needs of communities through working with partners
 - has undergone an effective equality impact assessment process.
6. Fire authorities should review the effectiveness of 'cross-border' integration arrangements with neighbouring authorities and set these out appropriately in their IRMPs.
7. Oxfordshire's fire authority published its strategic IRMP in April 2008 providing the strategic direction for the next five years. This document is subjected to annual review and updated and amended as required. The current strategic IRMP requires no amendment for 2011-12 and will be refreshed as a new 5-year strategic document for 2013-14.
8. The projects that have been proposed for the action plan 2011-12 are subject to a period of consultation that concludes on 15 February. Oxfordshire fire authority has consulted widely with partner agencies (including neighbouring authorities), councillors, commerce and the voluntary sector as well as members of the public.
9. As part of the fire authority's continuing commitment to corporate working, senior management members have undertaken briefings of directorate management teams to further explain the plan's content and seek opportunities for greater integrated working.

10. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will note and respond to the comments made during the consultation period. If appropriate, changes will be made to the final action plan. Comments received, together with management responses, will be published on the internet for public access.
11. The following items summarise the projects for inclusion in the IRMP Action Plan for 2011-12. Where applicable, these include consultation comments, although at the time of writing the consultation period had yet to close. To date we have received limited response to the consultation process and therefore the comments below are indicative of the overall comments received. Further feedback will be given to Cabinet as part of the meeting on 16/02/11.
 - **Project 1: To permanently remove the second appliance from Faringdon from the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) fleet.***

Responsible Officer – Service Delivery Manager

**Originally in 2007/08 IRMP – Project 6 Fire Cover Resilience: Review of the second fire engine availability at Faringdon. Appliance was removed from Faringdon in April 2009.*

Objective: To permanently remove the second fire appliance at Faringdon from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's fleet, reducing the fire appliance fleet provided by OFRS from 35 to 34.

Consultation comment: *“So long as an adequate weight of response can be made to incidents”*

Management response: This determination has already been made as part of the 2007/8 IRMP project. 34 front line appliances continue to provide an adequate weight of response to incidents. Any further proposals will fall into project 6 of this year's IRMP.

- **Project 2: To complete the review and commence implementation of the outcome of Project 2 from 2010/11 IRMP- Special Appliance review including aerial rescue appliances and specialist rescue capability*.**

Responsible Officer – Emergency Response Manager

SSC8

** Where the outcomes of the review will require further consultation, these will be included in the 2012/13 IRMP. Those areas that can be implemented within normal managerial delegation will be acted upon as appropriate.*

Objective: To review the specialist appliances within Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, looking in particular at locations and crewing arrangements. Identifying and delivering ongoing effective working arrangements with neighbouring fire and rescue services under revised mutual agreements to secure the effective provision of specialist appliances.

Consultation comment: *“You should consult the findings first”.*

Management Response: Managers consider it appropriate to use their discretion to undertake appropriate actions to deliver an effective and efficient fire and rescue service. However, further consultation will be undertaken with affected employees.

- **Project 3: To review and further extend existing Safeguarding measures throughout OFRS.**

Responsible Officer – Risk Reduction Manager

Objective: For all fire and rescue service individuals and functions working with and/or having contact with adults/children who are at particular risk of harm as a result of abuse or neglect, to be able to identify at risk individuals, then work in partnership within a multi-agency framework to secure the wellbeing security and safety of the vulnerable person.

Consultation comment: *“Definitely introduce smarter ways of working”*

Management Response: Agreed

- **Project 4: To develop and implement a strategy to ensure protection and prevention activities are targeted at those personnel and properties most at risk from fire, particularly in locations remote from early fire service intervention in the event of an emergency.**

Responsible Officer – Risk Reduction Manager

Objective: To ensure that resources are targeted to protect remote communities, working with the local community on self-help projects

to support vulnerable people through the training of Community Fire Safety Advocates.

Consultation comment: *no comments received*

- **Project 5: To develop the role of Retained Station Support Officers to work as local community advocates to be fully involved in developing and supporting local initiatives in conjunction with local people, delivering the county council's localities agenda through engagement with youth services, education, and healthcare providers.**

Responsible Officer – Service Delivery Performance Manager

Objective: To use a recognised and trusted role model to assist in delivering local initiatives on behalf of OCC and other interested parties for the good of the local community.

Consultation comment: *“Having personnel with the correct skills is a good idea. Do you still need all the retained managers?”*

Management response: The full implications of the introduction of Retained Station Support Officers (RSSOs) are still emerging. Future organisational structures will be reviewed in due course, but the service recognises the value of the retained duty system management structure as a true reflection of locality working. RSSOs are intended to supplement the current management arrangements and will be focused on ensuring the effectiveness of those stations on the retained duty system.

- **Project 6: In light of the Oxfordshire County Council Business Strategy and the emerging financial situation, continue the 2010/11 IRMP project 6* – (“Review the current provision of fire appliances to ensure operational resilience and value for money”) to ensure continued cost effective, resilient service provision*.**

Responsible Officer – Service Delivery Manager

**Is not likely to be concluded in 2010/11 due to changes in national priorities – continuation for 2011/12.*

Objective: To review the current provision of fire cover, including appliances to ensure operational resilience and value for money.

Consultation comment: *“Yes, this should be reviewed. However any changes should be identified and consulted on first”.*

Management Response: Managers consider it appropriate to use their discretion to undertake appropriate actions to deliver an effective and efficient fire and rescue service. However, further consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders, including affected employees where necessary.

Financial and Staff Implications

11. Each project will fully recognise the prevailing economic constraints, delivering efficiencies or allowing existing/additional services to be delivered more effectively. Project work will be undertaken from within current staffing and budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:**

Subject to any amendments which the Cabinet may consider appropriate, to approve the proposed projects to be included in the IRMP Action Plan 2011-12.

David Etheridge
Chief Fire Officer

Background papers:

National Framework document for the Fire and Rescue Service
Oxfordshire Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008-13
The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11.

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